

DANGEROUS MENTALLY ILL OFFENDER PROGRAM STATEWIDE MULTI-SYSTEM REVIEW COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

January 2001

Purpose

The Dangerous Mentally Ill Offender Statewide Multi-System Review Committee, hereafter referred to as the Committee, is responsible for the final selection of persons to participate in the Dangerous Mentally Ill Offender (DMIO) Program as authorized by Chapter 214, Laws of 1999 (SSB 5011).

Responsibilities

- Review eligible offenders between six and twelve months prior to the expected release date;
- Make a final selection of DMIO participants;
- Determine the geographic location for release (i.e., Regional Support Network);
- Make recommendations to the DOC regarding possible institutional transfer to facilitate pre-release planning;
- Identify and notify key members for the local community multi-system care planning (MCP) teams;
- Provide necessary information and documents to the MCP teams;
- Develop “best practice” guidelines by reviewing and analyzing local implementation to identify innovations, barriers and resolutions;
- Develop a mechanism for sharing “best practice” ideas across the state;
- Develop a conflict resolution process to address local concerns;
- Develop procedures for managing confidentiality of the information distribution process; and
- Develop process and criteria for awarding “exceptional cost” funds and implement the award decision process.

Membership

The committee will be co-chaired by representatives from DOC and the public mental health system. Committee membership (voting members) includes the following representatives:

1. Mental Health Division, Department of Social and Health Services
2. Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, DSHS
3. Division of Developmental Disabilities, DSHS
4. Community Protection Unit, DOC
5. Mental Health Services, DOC
6. Regional Corrections, DOC
7. Regional Support Networks (RSN)

8. Community Mental Health Treatment Provider
9. County Designated Mental Health Professionals (CDMHP)
10. Law Enforcement
11. County Alcohol and Drug Coordinator
12. Department of Corrections

Voting members are responsible to ensure representation, member or alternate, at each meeting. Co-chairs will contact voting members that are absent for two consecutive meetings or more than three meetings in a single year to assess ability to participate on the Committee.

Meeting Schedule

The Committee meets from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the third Monday of each month. The meeting will be rescheduled when a state holiday falls on this date or as otherwise determined by the co-chairs.

Quorum

A quorum will consist of not less than seven (7) voting members or alternates.

Guests

Guests at the Committee meetings must have prior approval of the Co-chairs. All guests must sign and agree to comply with the Committee Confidentiality Agreement.

Minutes

Minutes of committee proceedings will be taken at all meetings and approved or amended by the Committee at the next meeting. Co-chairs will maintain copies of minutes and related documents. Committee minutes will include members and guests present, discussion summaries, selection of program participants, including a description of factors considered in determining dangerousness, and committee decisions related to “exceptional cost” funds.

Candidate Presentations

The DOC Community Protection Unit is responsible to identify candidates for review, complete a presentation summary, and compile presentation materials for each candidate. Identification of candidates and presentation materials will be consistent with Committee standards.

Note: Written descriptions of the identification process, presentation summary and presentation (packet) standards are being developed. One element of the identification process relates to the offender’s expected release date (ERD). The written standards will include a minimum and maximum time period, relative to the ERD, for the review (the current practice is not less than five (5) months before the ERD). The co-chairs may grant exceptions to the time frame requirements. Separate standards may be required for persons under the authority of the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board (ISRB).

Selection

The Committee will review the presentation summary and presentation materials for each candidate. Following discussion, the Committee will vote regarding whether the candidate meets the criteria of “mental disorder” and “dangerous.” Candidates meeting both criteria, by a simple majority, are selected as a DMIO program participant.

SELECTION CRITERIA

“The secretary shall identify offenders in confinement or partial confinement who: (a) Are reasonably believed to be **dangerous to themselves or others**; and (b) have a **mental disorder**. In determining an offender's dangerousness, the secretary shall consider behavior known to the department and factors, based on research, that are linked to an increased risk for dangerousness of mentally ill offenders and shall include consideration of an offender's chemical dependency or abuse.” **RCW 72.09.370 (1) (SB 5011 - 1999)**

MENTAL DISORDER CRITERIA

“**Mental disorder**” means any organic, mental, or emotional impairment, which has substantial adverse effects on an individual’s cognitive or volitional functions. **RCW 71.05.020**

Operationalized definition:

“**Organic, mental, or emotional impairment**” means

- any organic brain defect, damage or injury (such as traumatic brain injury, developmental disability, and dementia)
- mental or emotional illness (thought and affective disorders such as schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bi-polar affective disorder, major depression, severe mood, anxiety or dissociative disorders, borderline personality or other disorders with psychotic features. It does not include substance abuse/addiction disorders or most personality disorders).

“**Substantial adverse effects**” means

- untreated, has a major impairment on

“**An individual’s cognitive or volitional functions**” means

- functions of thinking, decision making or making choices

DANGEROUSNESS CRITERIA

“Dangerous to self”

1. Substantial risk
2. Violent act

Consider:

- Suicide attempts: number, frequency and seriousness
- Acts of self harm: number, frequency and seriousness
- Substance abuse or addiction and its relationship to suicide attempts or acts of self harm

“Dangerous to others”

Consider:

- LSI-R score
- Community Transition Study Risk Levels: new felony offense and new crimes against persons
- Previous convictions: violence and number
- Age at first arrest
- Use of a weapon
- Institutional infractions: number and seriousness
- Substance abuse or addiction and its relationship to crimes

Persons not selected: The Committee may make recommendations to DOC regarding transition planning.

Persons selected: The Committee shall:

- Identify the specific Regional Support Network to begin transition planning, based on RSN selection criteria, in descending order:
 1. RSN that last provided services to the person
 2. RSN where person had resided for the six months prior to arrest/conviction
 3. RSN where person resided at the time of arrest/conviction
 4. RSN where person was last convicted

- Review for possible recommendation to DOC regarding institutional transfer to facilitate pre-release transition planning.
- Review for possible recommendations to the identified RSN regarding members for the community Multi-System Care Planning (MCP) team or other individual specific issue.
- Review for possible recommendations regarding civil commitment evaluation.

Other Committee Responsibilities

- Provide necessary information and documents to the MCP team;
- Develop “best practice” guidelines by reviewing and analyzing local implementation to identify innovations, barriers and resolutions;
- Develop a mechanism for sharing “best practice” ideas across the state;
- Develop a conflict resolution process to address local concerns;
- Develop procedures for the management of confidentiality of the information distribution process;
- Develop criteria and implement process for awarding “exceptional cost” funds;
- Indeterminate Sentence Review Board (ISRB) case reviews; and
- Produce annual report of Committee activities and decisions.